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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
KRUEGER, et. al. :
Serial No.: 09/855,425 : Group Art Unit: 2171
Filed: October 1, 2001 : Examiner: Tuan Quang DAM
Atty. Docket No. 59095.010100 :
For: Method and System for Seamless Integration of Preprocessing and
Postprocessing Functions with an Existing Application Program

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Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2100

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) AND TO
AMEND ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.102(d), Applicants hereby petition to make the above-referenced patent application special and advance it out of turn for examination as it relates to an invention for countering terrorism, as described in MPEP 708.02(XI). The claimed invention contributes to countering terrorism by allowing federal, state, and other authorities to leverage commercial off-the-shelf ("COTS") software while protecting information generated and used by that software. As police and homeland security authorities move to network-oriented environments, especially those using the Internet or wireless networks, the potential that data will be accessible to hackers and others increases. One way to reduce this risk is to encrypt data when it is stored on a hard drive or other storage device. While several file encryption systems exist in the prior art, these systems typically require user-initiated steps, and these systems have proven to be too cumbersome to be used consistently. The claimed invention intercepts communications between COTS software, such as Microsoft® Word, and an operating system, such as Microsoft Windows, and allows the COTS software to access and operate with encrypted files without any user effort. This permits more consistent file encryption, and is likely to significantly improve overall data security, thereby preventing confidential information, such as counter terrorism information and other secrets, from falling into the wrong hands.

In addition, the software limits the need for expensive, custom-developed, encryption-oriented computer systems, operating systems, and software, and instead

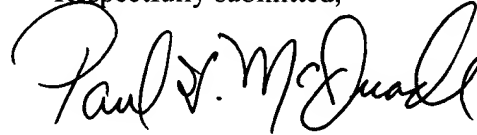
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allows the authorities to utilize lower cost, commercially available software and computer systems. By reducing costs associated with data security, the present invention allows authorities to more efficiently allocate resources for countering terrorism.

CONCLUSION

Through the discussion above, Applicants have met the requirements set forth under 37 CFR 1.102(d) and MPEP 708.02(XI) by explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism. Therefore Applicants request that this petition be granted. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution. A check to cover the cost of filing this petition is enclosed. You are hereby authorized to charge or credit any deficiency or overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0653.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. McQuade", written in a cursive style.

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